



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Park Ranger Josh Bates Wins Regional Freeman Tilden Award

Brecksville, Ohio – The National Park Service is proud to announce Park Ranger Josh Bates as the Freeman Tilden award recipient for the Midwest Region. He will now compete in the nationals and the award will be announced at the National Association for Interpretation annual conference in Virginia in mid-November, 2012.

Josh was recognized for his work as the first volunteer liaison/service-learning coordinator for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He successfully launched a new program that engaged middle school-to-college aged youth in the park, age groups that were underserved by other park programs. Josh designed program formats, formed relations with partner schools, managed complicated program logistics, and skillfully engaged youth in the program. From January 2011 through June of 2012, Josh worked with 1547 students and 344 adults with an average of seven contact hours each. Through his programs, he engaged students in learning and stewardship through the removal of invasive plants, creating butterfly gardens, building a hoop house, and planting trees.

The Freeman Tilden Award is the highest award presented to an individual National Park Service interpreter. The award is presented annually and recognizes outstanding contributions to the practice of interpretation and education by an NPS employee. The award was created to stimulate and reward creative thinking and original program/project activity among NPS interpreters which, when delivered, results in positive impacts upon the preservation of the parks and the visiting public. Freeman Tilden championed interpretation in the National Park Service and was one of the first people to set down the principles and theories of interpretation.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit www.nps.gov/cuva or call 330-657-2752.

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